



Metropolitan United Church
DIAMOND JUBILEE
1892-1952

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Metropolitan United Church



DIAMOND JUBILEE

1892 - 1952

ANNIVERSARY

Conceived in the mind of a loving God,
And wombed in the heart of man,
A temple arose from the lowly sod—
'Twas called, "Metropolitan".
So modest it looked at that early day;
So humble who worshipped there;
But souls were refreshed as they came to pray;
And God marked their early prayer.
Full sixty rich years since that day have sped;
Deep faith has been justified:
For numberless souls in the Way were led
To life that has satisfied.
And now we return to the Lord our praise
On this anniversary:
Content, unto Him, to entrust our days,
In fullest sincerity.

A. L. MARKS.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Committee in charge of the preparation of this booklet wishes to extend its warmest thanks to the many persons who have given of their time and resources in order that this permanent record of our Diamond Jubilee Anniversary might be published. The aim has been to present a picture of our church life, composed of the highlights of the past sixty years. It is realized that in a church such as Metropolitan, with its history of continuous and vigorous activity, it is difficult to do justice to all organizations that have flourished over the years, or to pay sufficient tribute to the loyalty and devotion of the leaders of such groups. The Committee hopes that any imperfections or omissions will not lessen the interest and value that this booklet may have for the members and adherents of Metropolitan United Church.

DIAMOND JUBILEE BOOKLET COMMITTEE

Rev. R. E. Finlay, Chairman.
Miss Eva McKittrick.
Miss Dorothy McBain.

Mr. A. E. Might.
Mr. A. E. Hartwig.
Mr. Leslie Gue.

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The record of sixty years of faithful church service is an achievement which calls for special celebration. Beginning in 1892 when South Edmonton was little more than a sprawling village, and continuing through these six decades, Metropolitan Church has served its community with vigor and devotion.



REV. R. E. VIPOND

The earliest settlers undertook the building of a church that would meet the needs of those early years. Fifteen years later, a fine large brick church, with imposing tower, replaced the first modest frame structure. When this building was destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1942 a loyal and devoted congregation stood ready to rebuild. And rising to the further challenge of increased population, a commodious church hall was erected in 1950.

The people of Metropolitan have always had a mind to work. And hand in hand with their local endeavours, they have taken their share of responsibility in the wider mission of the Church's programme. From this congregation young men and women have gone forth to serve both at home and overseas.

The congregation has been ably served by men and women who have left their mark indelibly imprinted upon the pages of its history. The story that this booklet attempts to tell is a brief outline of the accomplishments of these past sixty years. Of necessity the story must omit much detail. But an effort has been made to trace the growth and development of the congregation and to indicate some highlights of the noble past. Those of us who serve in these years are heirs of a great tradition, and we can look confidently to the future if we carry into the new day the spirit of the old.

REID E. VIPOND.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF METROPOLITAN CHURCH

The first train over the Calgary and Edmonton Railway arrived in June 1891, and with this train arrived a man who was to play an important part in the building of the Methodist Church in South Edmonton. His name was John Shields, and he came as yard-master for the terminus of the new railway. Both he and his wife were interested in securing



JOHN SHIELDS

a place of worship for the new community. He was a man of sterling Christian character, honest and straightforward, and much esteemed by his associates. When the church had been built, John was usually over early to see if the fires were operating and the church was comfortable. He took such an interest that when two small boys who were playing in front of the church were asked, "What church is this?" they promptly replied, "This is John Shields' church." The first meeting to consider the building of a church was held in his home.

Rev. Charles A. Procunier, pastor of McDougall Church, Edmonton, had been holding a monthly service on the South Side in the homes of the people. Mr. Wilkie, a Presbyterian student, had also held a few services. The collections had amounted to \$30.00, and on May 8, 1892 this money was equally divided between the two.

The division of this very small sum of money between two men turns our minds towards the days when money was worth a great deal more than it is today. It is fascinating to glance at the early days in South Edmonton, and try to place in its proper setting the beginnings of the church we know so well.

In the scattered village of South Edmonton in 1892, one of the most important places was undoubtedly Walter's Ferry, situated just west of the present 105th Street bridge. It was owned by John Walter and operated by John McPhaden, both of whom were early and staunch members of Metropolitan Church. Another point of interest was McKernan Lake, owned by Robert McKernan, who homesteaded just west of the lake. He was a member of the building committee for the first church. At that time the only area of South Edmonton which was surveyed into lots was that portion lying north of 82nd Avenue, between 99th and 107th Streets.

Another side of the picture of the times was the prices that prevailed. Butter sold for ten to twelve cents a pound, and eggs were eight to twelve cents a dozen. Dr. Sharpe, an early physician, stated that it was difficult to draw in sufficient cash to cover the cost of operation of the two teams of horses that he required to travel in his practice. Water was delivered at the rate of 25c per barrel to the homes of those who had no well of their own, or who did not carry water from the two public wells.

No pioneer of South Edmonton will ever forget the mud of the 'nineties. With no gravelled streets and few graded ones, it took very little time indeed for the roads to become impassable following a rain. The trip to the North Side was an arduous undertaking in those seasons of the year when mud was prevalent. Indeed, on more than one occasion, visitors from the North Side were inadvertently forced to stay overnight in South Edmonton rather than risk the trip back across the river. One member of our present congregation was put up for the night, he recalls, in a well-padded bathtub of Mrs. Wm. Fowler, Mel Fowler's mother.

With these few facts and incidents fresh in our minds, let us return to the story of Metropolitan Church. On July 26, 1892, a building committee was appointed to erect a church. The committee consisted of Robert McKernan, Peter Clark, James Cosser, John Shields and James Fisher. Robert McKernan was chairman. By September the tenth of that

year we notice that considerable progress had been made, for bills amounting to \$1174 had been presented for payment. The church was to have cost seven hundred dollars, but like most church buildings, plans were too modest, and the final figure was double the original one. Two lots for the church site had been donated by the C. and E. Townsite trustees. Later, two other lots were added for the parsonage site, the gift of Mr. A. W. Toll. The first service in the new church was held on September 3, 1892.

At the close of 1892 a committee representing the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations was appointed to manage and regulate all matters pertaining to services held in the church. Robert McKernan, John Shields and Frank Wheatley composed the Methodist section, and Mr. Durrand, James Cosser and John Fisher, the Presbyterian. Three denominations had been using the church, and it was not easy to arrange a time of service satisfactory to all. At the July meeting in 1893, the Methodists wanted their services held in the evening in order to fit in with their minister's rural appointments. This was not agreeable to the other members of the committee, and after a three-hour discussion the matter was referred to the ministers. The ministers also failed to secure an amicable settlement and relations were somewhat strained. An offer was made to the Presbyterians to refund them their subscriptions to the church building fund and that they retire. The Presbyterians made a similar proposal to the Methodists.



JOHN WALTER

Nothing appears to have been done, and the Presbyterians began making plans for the building of a church. At this time the services given by the pastor of McDougall Church were discontinued, and a probationer appointed to serve South Edmonton, Agricola and Clover Bar. The probationer, Mr. George Elmitt, served one year and was followed by Rev. H. A. Goodwin. These men made their home among members of the congregation, where they were given board. They also received a very small salary. In 1896 it was stated that the contributions for the minister's salary received from South Edmonton, Clover Bar, Leduc, Clearwater and Sprucedale were \$125.00.

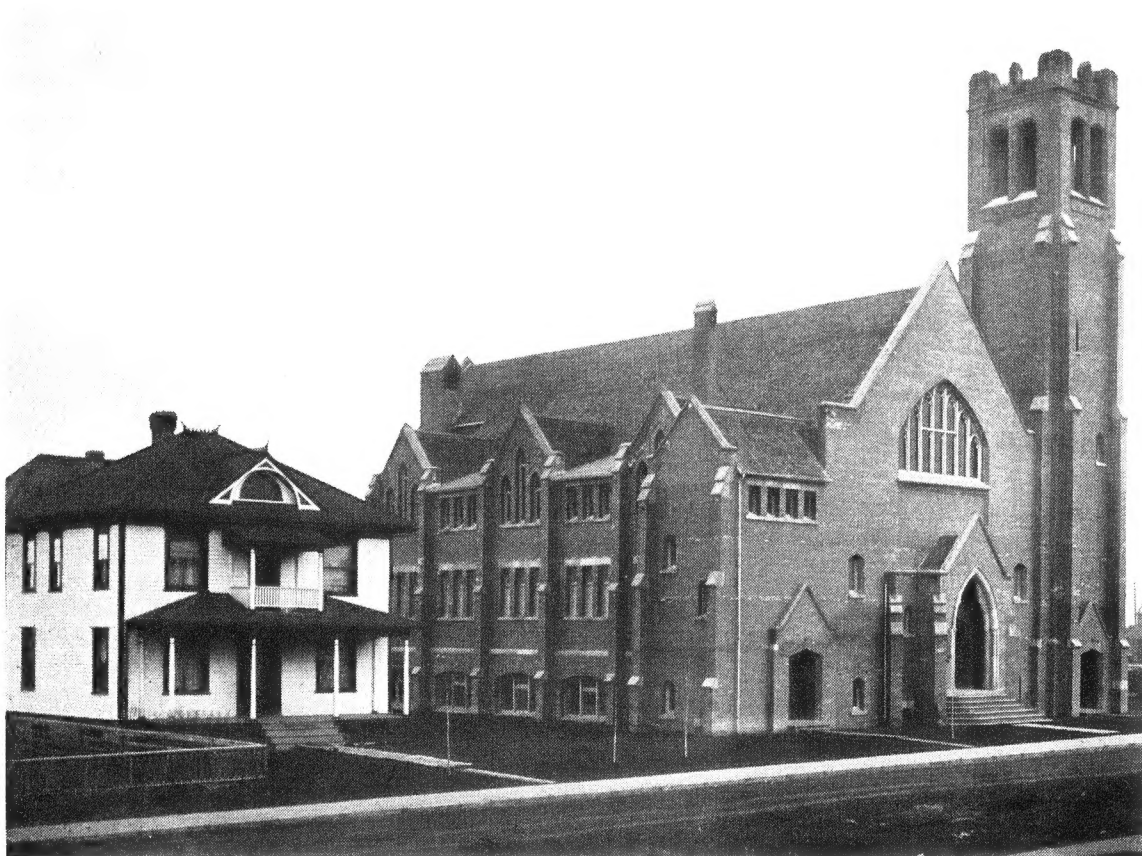
In October 1895 during the ministry of Rev. W. B. Chegwin, a Ladies' Aid was formed, with Mrs. Toll as its first president. What Metropolitan owes to its women workers can never be computed. With what enthusiasm they gave themselves to the raising of funds for their church and parsonage! The first parsonage, built for Rev. W. B. Chegwin (their first married minister), served the church up to 1906, when a more commodious building was erected.

During 1897, economic conditions began to improve, spurred by the Klondyke gold rush. This brought to Edmonton numerous men with means who sought many and varied contrivances to reach their goal. To reach the Klondyke, these men had to be outfitted with food, clothing and tools. This accelerated trade, and business boomed. Then land-seekers came to spy out the land, followed by home-seekers. Immigration unprecedented in the West began to people the plains and parklands. The figures for three different years will give an idea of the tremendous influx of settlers. In 1901, Alberta's population was seventy-three thousand, in 1906, one hundred and eighty-five thousand, and in 1911, three hundred and seventy-four thousand.

Pessimism gave way to enthusiasm. South Edmonton changed its name to Strathcona, and in 1899 became a town, with Thomas Bennett as its first Mayor.

During the ministry of Dr. T. J. Johnston, great events were stirring the thought and

life of the city in general and Strathcona in particular. Edmonton had been chosen as the capital of the province. The University site had been purchased. Plans for the High Level Bridge had been approved, and a street car system between north and south awaited only the completion of the bridge. The population of Strathcona had grown from 1,300 in 1901 to 3,500 in 1907. The Methodist church with a membership of 283 had outgrown its building, and the congregation in February 1907 passed a resolution in favor of building a new church that would seat 1,000 people. The minister personally took charge of the subscription list and Whiddington Brothers were engaged as architects. The old frame church was moved over to an adjoining lot and used while the brick church was under construction. Later it served for many years as a church on 80th Avenue, and recently has been moved to the country to be converted to a house.



METROPOLITAN CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, 1907-1942

In the meantime, the building of the new brick church had been launched. The contract was let in April, 1907, to D. F. McHardy for \$35,955. With later changes made in the plans and with the architect's fees, the total cost of the building was almost \$39,000. Mr. H. H. Crawford, who had become a member of the Board of Trustees, tells us that the added church furnishings such as pulpit and chairs, electrical fixtures, carpets and chairs for the basement had now raised the total investment in the church to \$41,586. This was an ambitious undertaking for a church whose membership was under 300. It meant years of struggle with financing to meet obligations. The cornerstone was laid on July 16, 1907, by Dr. T. C. Buchanan, Superintendent of Missions. In February, 1908, the basement of the church was opened for worship, with Dr. T. J. Johnston conducting the first service and

Dr. Daly of Wetaskiwin preaching the sermon. In June of that year there was a change of pastors, because of regulations in the Methodist Church. Rev. H. E. Gordon became the new minister. It was not until November, 1908, that the new church was dedicated. Dr. Buchanan conducted the morning service of Dedication, with Dr. S. P. Rose of Winnipeg delivering the sermon. At the evening service the main electric fuse blew out and the entire church was left in darkness. Lamps and candles were procured and the service continued. At the Anniversary dinner on Monday evening over six hundred persons were present, and a financial objective of \$2,500 was surpassed. The new church was a fine Gothic structure of red brick with grey stone trimmings, and had an imposing tower. It contained a gallery at the back and sides of the church, and possessed a pipe organ and a full-sized basement. The name "Metropolitan" came into use during the pastorate of Dr. T. J. Johnston, and was probably suggested by him.

Nearly all of those most active at this time have passed on, but the church will always remember with gratitude such men as John Walter, John Shields, Thomas Richards, J. R. Lavell, and W. K. Shields. There were many others who gave generous help as well, but they looked to their leaders to bear the brunt of financial responsibility. A financial crisis arose in the autumn of 1909, with a mortgage of \$25,000 on the church, a note due to the bank of over \$6,000, and a floating debt of \$5,000. The bank would not increase its loan and several members of the Board went to another bank, borrowed the necessary money to meet pressing obligations, giving their notes as security and meeting them when they fell due. In subsequent years the position began to improve and the situation was saved.

It should be said to the credit of Metropolitan Church that although it had pressing local claims, it never forgot its missionary obligations. This was due to a live Woman's Auxiliary and to the loyalty of the Sunday School to Missions. During World War I, when economic conditions were severely strained, the Sunday School contributed four hundred dollars to Missions in both 1917 and 1918.



MEMORIAL PLAQUE WORLD WAR I

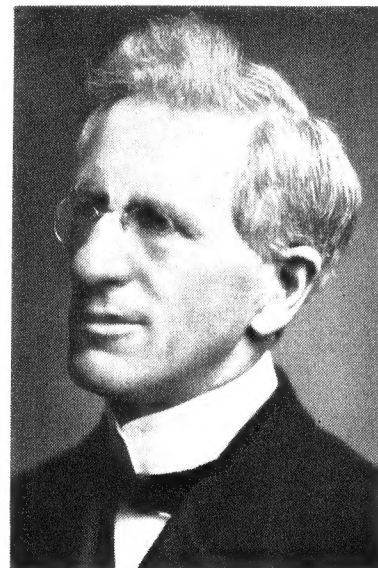


MEMORIAL PLAQUE WORLD WAR II

Neither was Metropolitan unmindful of its civil duties. Of the two hundred and forty men who enlisted in World War I, forty-nine lost their lives. During the war there was established a systematic and efficient staff of correspondents with the men at the Front. After both World War I and World War II, appropriate memorial tablets were erected and unveiled at church services for those "who nobly fell".

After recovery from the shock and trials of the first War, the church continued to make steady progress, and at an anniversary occasion held in 1926 while Dr. Wm. Hollingsworth was pastor, some interesting facts were revealed. The mortgaged indebtedness on the church had been lowered from \$25,000 to \$15,000; the Sunday School had raised \$1,606; the W.M.S., \$943; the Ladies' Aid, \$1,345; the Missionary and Maintenance Fund, \$2,445. The church membership stood at 537 and the enrolment in the Sunday School was an even 600.

During the ministry of Rev. Wm. Hollingsworth, a new type of Christian service was put into operation by a C.P.R. mail clerk, Mr. W. S. Douglas, now an elder of Metropolitan Church. This plan antedated the "Sunday School in the Home" project. It consisted of the collection of "used" and "leftover" Sunday School papers from city and town Sunday Schools, and the distribution of these papers to the outlying areas in the Foothills, the Peace River country and in the neglected areas on the prairies. The wrapping and mailing was mainly done by C.G.I.T. girls under the supervision of Mr. Douglas. The cost of mailing was met by donations from businessmen in Calgary, Edmonton, and a few in



REV. WM. HOLLINGSWORTH

Toronto. The plan was carried on for eight or nine years with varying success. About 1,000 copies of the New Testament gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were sent out where requested.

On July 1, 1932, Rev. Wm. Grant became pastor of Metropolitan. It was a time of unparalleled depression, doubt and debt. Men were crossing the continent looking for work and calling on our ministers for a hand-out, a night's rest, advice and sympathy. Our church did its part in meeting the needs of the community and of Southern Saskatchewan where the need seemed the greatest.

In 1933 a Men's Organization was formed, and besides taking its part in communal well-being, met together for social fellowship. They also provided one-half the cost of the Sunday broadcasts. Dr. Grant rendered a faithful ministry to the needs of his time. The depression clouds were just lifting when his ministry closed at Metropolitan.

Rev. R. McElroy Thompson took over just two months before the outbreak of the second World War. Metropolitan Church had struggled with debt for many years.



REV. W. M. GRANT



REV. R. M. THOMPSON

In 1922, When Dr. Hollingsworth became pastor, the mortgaged indebtedness stood at \$15,840. During his pastorate it was reduced to \$4,000, and during the pastorate of Dr. W. M. Grant it was further reduced to \$600. This was paid off in the autumn of 1939, and a mortgage-burning ceremony was held on December 31st of that year—just three years before fire destroyed the church which had taken so long to make free of debt. It is interesting to note that the total interest paid on the mortgage in the thirty-two years of its existence was \$27,261.

The loss of their church by fire on New Year's Day, 1942, came as distressing news to the members, adherents and friends of Metropolitan Church. It had served its community for almost a third of a century, and its members asked one another, "What shall we do? What CAN we do? The war is on—should we attempt to build? Can we build now amid such uncertainty?"

The Session was called on January 7th, mainly to arrange for a place of worship. Knox United and Scona Baptist Churches offered their buildings for whatever use Metropolitan congregation might deem best. The gymnasium at Garneau School was secured for Sunday

services. A committee was appointed to interview the congregation of Garneau United Church to explore the possibilities of that congregation uniting with Metropolitan in the rebuilding of the church. Negotiations proceeded for some time, but finally the members of Garneau Church decided to maintain their separate identity.



LAYING THE CORNERSTONE

The turning of the first sod on the present site of the church, the corner of 83rd Avenue and 109th Street, was performed in the spring of 1942 by Rev. Dr. Aubrey S. Tuttle, Moderator of the United Church at that time. The work of excavation and laying of the foundation was pushed forward, and on September 16th the laying of the cornerstone took place. This ceremony was performed by Dr. Robert Newton, President of the University of Alberta, using the same cornerstone that had been laid in the first brick church on July 16th, 1907.

The shortage of materials and labor brought on by the War seriously hampered the work of building, but the congregation displayed the utmost zeal and determination to overcome all obstacles. A call went out for help in cleaning the brick that had gone through the fire, and many responded, giving of their time and service in this way. This service and material form a strong bond for many members with the former church.

By the spring of 1943 the work on the church was sufficiently advanced so that dedication ceremonies could take place. Dr. J. R. P. Sclater, Moderator of the United Church conducted the ceremony on March 21st. He was assisted in the service by the ex-Moderator, Dr. A. S. Tuttle; the President of Conference, Dr. A. S. Carr; and Rev. R. McElroy Thompson, minister of the church.



CLEANING BRICKS

A used pipe organ was purchased in 1943 by Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Burrows and presented to the church. This organ has been in constant use to the present time. It will be replaced during this Jubilee year by a new Casavant pipe organ which will be dedicated in memory of the founders and builders of Metropolitan Church.

Growth of the total church program indicated that more space was needed, and plans were made for the erection of the Church Hall. The first sod was turned in April, 1950, and the Hall dedicated for use in November of the same year. The Hall provides combination gymnasium and Sunday School accommodation, as well as added Club Rooms and a Church Office. The total cost was about \$50,000.

Our present minister, Rev. R. E. Vipond, came in the summer of 1949, and much of the planning and raising of funds for the new Hall took place under his guidance. The parsonage which had been purchased after the church fire in 1942 was not intended to be the permanent church home, and a new manse on 112th Street was purchased in 1951.

Mr. Vipond's ministry began at a time when home-building in the former McKernan Lake area was proceeding apace. With little or no church accommodation in this corner of the city, literally hundreds of persons came to make Metropolitan their church home, and many families not otherwise connected with the church sent their children to our Sunday School. To cope with this expanding congregation, now numbering 1,300 members, Mr. Vipond instituted in Metropolitan the practice of holding three church services each Sunday. In this way it is possible for all who wish to worship in our church to do so.

In closing this review of the past sixty years, surely we can say that we are heirs to a great past, rich in the faithful service of men and women, and conscious of the world's great need. Confronted with enlarged opportunities for Christian service, let us re-dedicate our lives to the service of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

Ministers Regularly Appointed to Serve Metropolitan Church During the Sixty Years

Rev Geo Elmitt	1893-1894	Rev R H Leitch	1911-1914
Rev H A Goodwin	1894-1896	Rev E Val Tilton	1914-1918
Rev W B Chegwin	1896-1899	Rev A H Going	1918-1922
Rev. W W Adamson	1899-1902	Rev. Wm Hollingsworth	1922-1932
Rev C. W Finch	1902-1904	Rev W M. Grant	1932-1939
Rev T. J Johnston	1904-1908	Rev R M. Thompson	1939-1949
Rev H E. Gordon	1908-1911	Rev Reid E Vipond	1949-

Candidates for the Ministry Recommended by Metropolitan Church

Ernest J Tate, about 1902
 James Earle, about 1900. After 1907 served many years in China
 D J S Pritchard, 1943
 Clifford T Wilkinson, 1947
 Ronald K Dougan, 1950
 Terence Anderson, 1951
 Barry Brooks, 1952

Young Women Appointed to Christian Service from the Congregation

Miss Dorothy McBain, 1935, Missionary to Korea
 Miss Frances Taylor, 1950, Missionary to India
 Miss Winnifred McElroy, R.E work in Saskatchewan
 Miss Beatrice McBain, R E work in Manitoba.
 Miss Bernice Moore. Training School Graduate, 1952

Metropolitan Church has served the community in more ways than one. It has been a fruitful field, a "happy hunting ground" for young men seeking a life partner. There were many young women from Metropolitan chosen to grace parsonages, manses and a rectory, among whom are the following.

The Misses

Gertrude Allen
 Bertha Allen
 Olive Doughty
 Ada Clark
 Isobel Jonason
 Rosa Hodgson
 Sara (Birdie) Donnan
 Evelyn Ball
 Jean Dunn
 Mercy Murray
 Patricia Newson
 Dora Carr
 Winnifred McElroy
 Margaret Robertson
 Beatrice McBain

Married

The Rev.'s

Fred T Cook
 John R Geeson
 Robert Simons
 Percy Halstead
 W M. Nainby (Anglican)
 Sam Marshall
 Thomas Hart
 W H McDonald
 Wesley Bainbridge
 E J Heuer
 John Collettt
 Arthur Magee
 J T P Nichols
 A. Boorman
 F. E Madden

And, there are many more prospects



THE SESSION

Back Row: H. Marsh, T. Knudson, G. Chelmick, J. Herlihy, E. Brooks, F. Gleave, J. Burrows.
 Third Row: G. Allen, W. A. Lang, Dr. E. Moss, G. Taylor, W. Barker, Rev. G. Steele, L. Sills
 Second Row: J. Nelson, B. Stephanson, L. Gue, R. Gilmour, Dr. G. Barnett, Rev. C. Corcoran, L. Robertson.
 Front Row: W. S. Douglas, A. L. Marks, Mrs. M. Wilkinson, G. Bruce (Clerk), Rev. R. Vipond, Mrs. A. G. Andrews, W. Olson.



THE COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS

Back Row: Dr. J. C. Ward, F. Meston, W. Stone, A. Wotherspoon, J. Longworth, T. Paton.
 Middle Row: S. Longman, J. Alexander, S. Morris, R. Brooks, J. Morris, Dr. G. Souch.
 Front Row: L. Hunter, R. Jorgenson, D. McElroy, C. Strong, Dr. R. Hilton (Chairman) W. Heath D. Hyndman

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY



EXECUTIVES OF W.M.S., EVENING AUXILIARY, AND FRANCES TAYLOR AUXILIARY

Back Row: R. Freebury, Mrs. H. Fazackerly, B. J. Gray, Mrs. D. Campbell, Mrs. B. Stephanson, Mrs. T. Morimoto, Mrs. C. Thorseth, Mrs. D. McKittrick.
 Third Row: Mrs. B. Whitbread, Mrs. G. Taylor, Mrs. R. Parsons, Mrs. R. Vipond, Mrs. J. K. Smith, Mrs. F. Keillor, Mrs. M. Seller, Mrs. W. Vigus, Mrs. J. Nelson.
 Second Row: Mrs. W. Heath, Mrs. C. McClelland, Mrs. S. Hillerud, Mrs. E. Moss, Mrs. T. Magwood, Mrs. T. Powers, Mrs. E. Leitch, Mrs. R. Collins, Mrs. R. Sheppard.
 Front Row: Mrs. A. G. Andrews, Mrs. W. Inkpen, Mrs. E. Richards, Mrs. W. Blench, Mrs. G. Bruce, Mrs. E. Brushett, Mrs. F. Richards, Mrs. W. Robertson, Mrs. J. Oberholtber, Mrs. D. McElroy.

The Metropolitan W.M.S. was organized in 1900 by Miss Elsie Smith, who became the first president. It was first known as the Strathcona Auxiliary of the Manitoba and N.W. Territories Branch of the W.M.S. of the Methodist Church of Canada. In 1906 the Branch was divided and the North West Territories Branch took in this district. Since 1909 it has been in the Alberta Conference Branch. The only other Auxiliary here was the Edmonton, later known as the McDougall Auxiliary.

The only available records to tell the story are the Treasurer's books since 1902, and the Secretary's books since 1919. In 1905 nineteen paid members are recorded, and in 1907-8 thirty-five paid fees of \$1.00 each. The membership reached the peak of ninety-eight in 1929 with sixty-six annual and thirty-two life members. Now the Afternoon Auxiliary has seventy-four members, the Evening Auxiliary fifty, and the Frances Taylor twenty-five. In 1949 the Afternoon Auxiliary with seventy-three members raised \$1,200.

Various means have been used to raise money besides fees and regular contributions. Mentioned in the minutes were donations from other organizations, the experience social, talent teas, self-denial funds, rummage sales, honorary members (mostly husbands of members), and mite boxes. In the late teens and early twenties Nellie McClung gave lectures on a city-wide basis. At least eight lectures were given, the last in 1938. One was in the form of a debate with Dr. Lewis on "The Ordination of Women".

The group system was first reported in 1917, whereby one person in each district would call and collect contributions each month from the members on her list. Some early leaders were:

Mrs. Aldridge	Mrs. Goddard	Mrs. Langford	Mrs. Vigus
Mrs. Elliott	Mrs. Kelsey	Mrs. Thurston	Mrs. Crawford
Mrs. Hosford	Mrs. Shields	Mrs. Christie	Mrs. Horn
Mrs. Richards	Mrs. Brushett	Mrs. Hodgson	Mrs. E. A. McBain
Mrs. Black	Mrs. Hamilton	Mrs. McKittrick	Mrs. Weston

In 1929 the monthly envelopes were introduced and systematic giving has largely replaced other methods of raising money.

Study groups were first started in 1930 by Mrs. A. E. Ottewell and Miss N. Burkholder. The latter led two of these groups until 1942 and helped with study book reviews until 1947. Other leaders were Mrs. G. B. Taylor and Mrs. J. P. Berry.

Soloists most frequently mentioned through the years were:

Mrs. H. H. Crawford	Miss H. Hosford (Mrs. Dorsey)	Mrs. N. Eagleson
Mrs. Dr. Conn	Mrs. Thos. Hart	Miss Gwen Walton
Mrs. Henry Renton	Mrs. Southern	Mrs. Dr. Kaufman
Mrs. Strong	Miss A. Hainstock	Mrs. Lawrence
Miss Jeanette Cook	Mrs. Fred Cook	Mrs. P. H. Bailey
Miss Bunny Hosford		

Presidents of the Afternoon Auxiliary have been:

Mrs. Elsie Smith	Mrs. Wm. Fowler	Mrs. Rankin	Mrs. Lavell
Mrs. Leitch	Mrs. T. W. Quayle	Mrs. J. R. Hodgson	Mrs. A. G. McKittrick
Mrs. J. Patullo	Mrs. A. D. Millar	Mrs. G. H. Rice	Mrs. A. E. Ottewell
Mrs. W. W. McBain	Mrs. W. M. Seller	Mrs. J. K. Smith	Mrs. Wm. Robertson
Mrs. A. G. Andrews			

The Mission Band was first mentioned in 1902 as having contributed ninety cents and the next year \$2.90. It continued to operate until about 1937. Some of the leaders since 1919 were:

Mrs. J. K. Smith	Mrs. F. Richards	Mrs. W. W. McBain	Mrs. Elliott
Mrs. V. McElroy	Mrs. Waistell	Mrs. Higgins	Miss Gwen Vigus
Miss Gwen Walton			

There is now an active Band of about thirty under Mrs. Harley and Mrs. Molyneux.

In 1911 we first read of the Mission Circle making a contribution. Mrs. Wm. Fowler was leader for several years, then Mrs. Ottewell. By 1919 there were Junior and Senior Circles with Superintendents Mrs. Hodgson and Mrs. Dr. Conn. Mrs. Hodgson continued for many years and when unable to leave her home she had the group meet there. It graduated into a young women's club in 1930 with Jean Dunn (Mrs. Wes. Bainbridge) as president and disbanded a few years later.

The Little Light Bearers were organized in 1915. After Union it was named the Baby Band. Superintendents were:

Mrs. Heald	Mrs. Varnum	Mrs. B. Crawford	Mrs. W. Vigus
Mrs. F. Richards	Mrs. R. S. Sheppard	Mrs. J. J. Nelson	Mrs. V. P. Bond
Mrs. G. B. Taylor	Mrs. J. H. Weston	Mrs. R. M. Shaver	Miss Mayhew
Mrs. Tebby			

In 1940 the Evening Auxiliary took over this work with Mrs. W. H. Langman as

superintendent until 1952 Mrs. R. E. Vipond has taken it this year and at the May 1952 meeting the Auxiliary entertained a large number of mothers.

C.G.I.T. and Explorer groups affiliate with the W.M.S. each year and have a missionary program as part of their year's work.

In November 1936 the Evening Auxiliary was formed so that teachers, business women, and women with young children could take an active part in the W.M.S. program. It started with eleven members meeting in the homes but it now has fifty members and meets in the church clubroom. In 1942 its allocation was \$50 and in 1952 it is \$400. Besides the study books, talks by various missionaries and residents of other countries, and accounts of missionary work at home and abroad, the program includes supply work for mission hospitals, food and clothing sent overseas, and the visiting of sick and shut-in folk in our neighborhood. The presidents have been

Mrs. W. H. Langman

Mrs. G. B. Taylor

Mrs. J. E. Oberholtzer

Mrs. E. H. Moss

Mrs. Geo. Bruce

In 1942 a new Circle was formed by Mrs. E. C. Richards from her C.G.I.T. group of eight girls. Mrs. Bruce and later Mrs. Moss were appointed as advisors from the Evening Auxiliary. In 1950 it graduated into the Frances Taylor Evening Auxiliary and now has twenty-five members. Presidents have been

Miss Doris Ward

Miss Jean Campbell

Miss Bunny Hosford

Mrs. W. Blench

Two Metropolitan girls entered full time church for the W.M.S. and went to foreign fields, and another, Miss Bernice Moore, has just graduated from the United Church Training School to enter church work.

Miss Dorothy McBain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. McBain, came to Strathcona in early childhood and attended the Sunday School and C.G.I.T., later leading in both organizations. After attending University she taught for several years, then entered the United Church Training School in Toronto. In 1935 she was commissioned and went to Korea where she taught in a girls' school at Songjin. After a furlough during the Japanese war she returned in 1947 to teach in Ehwa University in Seoul. Because of illness in the family, she returned to Edmonton in 1949.

Miss Frances Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Taylor, attended Sunday School and C.G.I.T., then trained as a nurse. She attended Naramata School in 1948-49 and nursed at the John Neil Hospital, Cold Lake, before going to the United Church Training School. On graduating in 1950 she was commissioned for missionary work in India and is stationed at Indore.

THE WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION



EXECUTIVES OF SENIOR AND JUNIOR WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

Back Row: Mrs. A. Wilson, Mrs. B. Bell, Mrs. H. McCrae, Mrs. R. Conn, Mrs. D. Hamilton.

Fourth Row: Mrs. M. Seller, Mrs. W. Ledingham, Mrs. E. Nepstad, Mrs. N. Gardner, Mrs. B. Ramsay.

Third Row: Mrs. E. Murray, Mrs. F. Parkinson, Mrs. C. Purdy, Mrs. E. Hallman, Mrs. W. G. Stuart, Mrs. W. Wensley.

Second Row: Mrs. D. Trantor, Mrs. R. Sheppard, Mrs. F. S. Hunter, Mrs. H. Payne, Mrs. W. Heath.

Front Row: Mrs. F. Richards, Mrs. J. W. Fry, Mrs. W. D. McDougall, Mrs. R. Vipond, Mrs. A. Heywood.

The Ladies' Aid Society of South Edmonton Methodist Church was formed October 8, 1895. The monthly fee was set at ten cents and the first proceeds of the society were to liquidate the church painting debt. Gentlemen were allowed to join as honorary members. The first membership list gave Mrs. A. W. Toll as president, the members being:

Mrs. M. Fowler, Mrs. Thos. Allen, Mrs. Robert Fairburn, Mrs. Wm. Davis, Miss Bertha Knapp, Mrs. A. C. Rutherford, Mrs. A. Essery, Mrs. Wm. Suffle, Miss Ida Ball, Miss A. Davis, Mrs. Pearce, Mrs. R. P. Pettipiece, Mrs. Frank Cowles, and the minister, Rev. H. A. Goodwin. Another meeting was held in November and there is no further record in the minute book until 1902. Evidently the work had continued with records in some other book.

Early activities included cutting and making carpet rags and finally the sale of the carpet; making of gingham aprons clearing 30 cents each; holding "at home" every two weeks with a charge of 10 cents. By 1905 they held many social functions and made aprons, quilts, and other articles. In July 1906 a successful social was held on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. D. Mills with a net profit of \$89.25. A second social was held on the lawn

of Dr F W Crang, just east of the church, with a profit of \$100. During the years 1910-1917 the anniversary dinner proceeds went directly to the Trustee Board without any credit to the Ladies' Aid

Since then money has been raised in various ways rummage sales, teas, dinners, catering to bonspiels, men's clubs, and to various other organizations

In 1905 the ladies voted \$28 00 to the board for the church debt and in 1906 they furnished the bedrooms in the new parsonage at a cost of \$96 In 1907 and 1908 they bought an organ for the new church for \$400 and paid \$160 for lighting fixtures Between 1910 and 1917 the ladies contributed \$580 to the Trustee Board and many demands were made on them for church and parsonage equipment In 1917 the Board asked the Aid to assume a bank note of \$4,800 which they did willingly and had it paid in full by the end of 1922. From 1923 to 1939 the ladies made annual contributions of varying amounts totalling \$12,580 to be paid on the mortgage. This made a grand total until that time of about \$20,000 paid to the Trustee Board, besides keeping up the parsonage and adding improvements to the church Just before the fire they had completed remodelling the kitchen and ladies' parlor

Soon after Union the name Ladies' Aid was changed to Woman's Association and as the membership increased it was decided to divide into district groups, while still maintaining the central association This was first done about 1931 when five groups were formed. A sixth group was formed in the S W area in 1947. Each of these groups meets in its own district, plans and works for its share in the over-all expenses, and enjoys more intimate fellowship than is possible in one large central group The W A. meets once each month after the group meetings and decides the general policy and the needs of the church as a whole. Each member of the group is also a member of the general W A and is expected to attend both meetings In 1951 the total membership was one hundred and seventy-eight. This group of women raised \$2,669 of which \$1,008 was spent on furnishings for the church and \$767 for the manse

During the construction and furnishing of the new church the women worked hard to raise necessary funds Catering was difficult due to rationing and short supplies but they served fifteen hundred meals to members of Conference when it met in Metropolitan in 1944.

The groups earn money by having teas, bazaars, plays, concerts and catering to men's suppers, socials, anniversary or special dinners and weddings.

During the war a great deal of work was done for the Red Cross under the leadership of Mrs. C J Kidd

Since the building of the new Church the W A has been responsible for furnishing the kitchen, supplying seats for the chancel and gallery and assisting in other parts of the church, as well as looking after the manse Donations have also been given to the W.M.S., the Sunday School, Agnes Forbes Home, C.G.I.T., Red Cross, European Relief, Flower Fund, Building Fund, and in 1946 a fund was started for the Church Hall

In November 1946 the formation of a Junior W.A. was encouraged to interest more of the younger women in this work They work independently of the Senior group but assist in some of the same projects The Jr W A started with twenty-five members and increased to seventy-eight in 1951. Mrs D McElroy was the first president, and was followed by Mrs. A M Wilson and Mrs H R McCrae. In 1951 they raised \$2,323.51, mostly from the production and sale of a cook book, teas and bazaars, catering, etc

The Jr. W.A. is providing a fine opportunity for fellowship and service among the younger women of the congregation.

The presidents of the L.A. and the W.A. have been:

Mrs. A. W. Toll	Mrs. R. Fairburn	Mrs. Powell	Mrs. C. E. Leake
Mrs. Chas. Ballatti	Mrs. J. E. Haughn	Mrs. G. H. Elliott	Mrs. A. Quigley
Mrs. A. Elliott	Mrs. E. G. Grobe	Mrs. F. W. Racey	Mrs. E. L. Crumb
Mrs. J. H. Laird	Mrs. H. W. Wilson	Mrs. Wm. Creighton	Mrs. Kent
Mrs. W. W. Prevey	Mrs. W. M. Seller	Mrs. F. H. Richards	Mrs. V. McElroy
Mrs. R. W. Weaver	Mrs. R. J. Foster	Mrs. C. J. Kidd	Mrs. F. T. Cook
Mrs. A. G. Walker	Mrs. J. S. Asbridge	Mrs. F. S. Hunter	Mrs. W. D. McDougall

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND MID-WEEK GROUPS

The Sunday School is the oldest of Metropolitan's many organizations. Formed in 1893 with Mr. Wade as Superintendent and with thirteen scholars enrolled, this department has continued to grow to meet the ever-expanding needs of the young people in the church. We will make only brief references to various aspects of this work during the years, but these references will indicate the nature of the work carried on in all departments and will pay tribute to the many men and women who have served the youth of Metropolitan so faithfully and well.

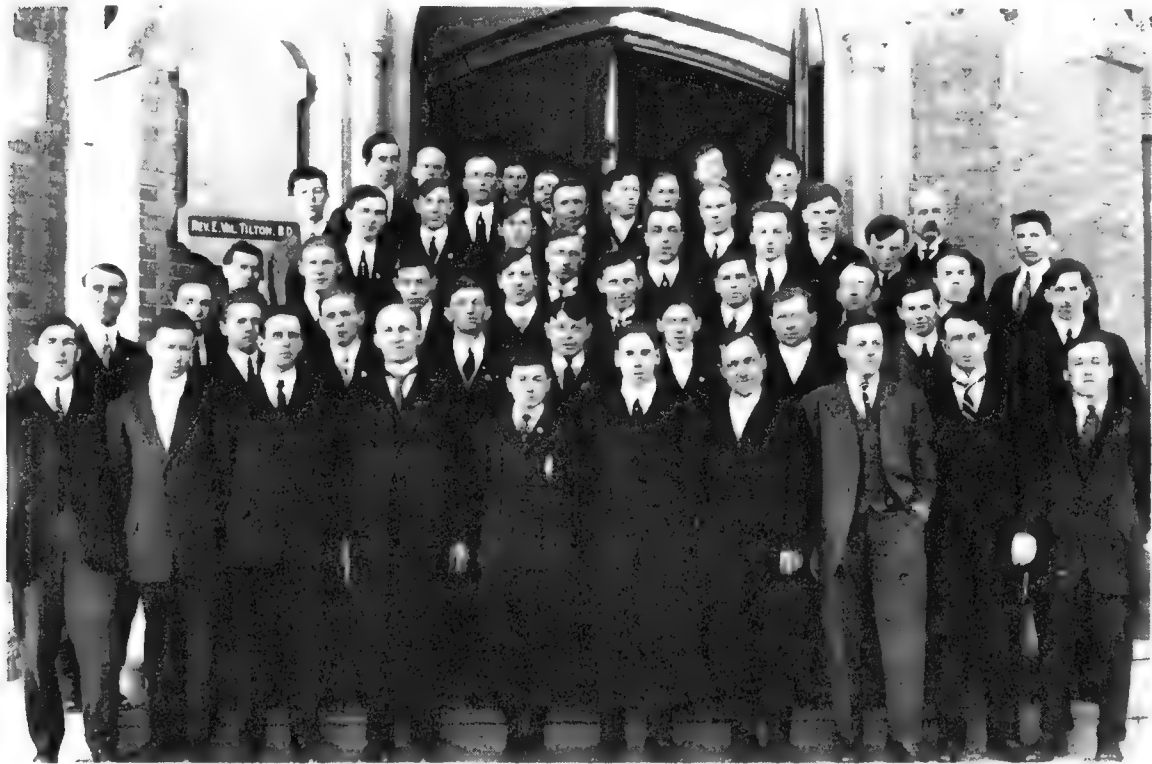


SWASTIKA CLASS HOCKEY TEAM

Fred Crumb (Coach), Alice Cox (Mrs. J. W. McAllister), Nan Green (Mrs. R. G. Dwen), Evelyn Elliott (Mrs. W. T. Bunyan), Haddie Hosford (Mrs. Neil Dorsey), Merle Simmons (Mrs. G. Ramsey), Gean Crumb (Mrs. McKenzie), Pearl Flack (Mrs. Brown), Lou Crumb (Mrs. Crum).

In the years before World War I the Sunday School grew rapidly. Two pieces of work have special interest here. Mrs. A. G. Walker and Mrs. A. G. McKitrick with their helpers carried on a Bible class for Chinese men living in our city. Sunday after Sunday this class would meet in the balcony of the brick church and improve its English by studying the

Scriptures. Thus, from its earliest days Metropolitan has been missionary-minded. Two other Bible classes in Metropolitan were well-known at this time. The Swastika Class for young women was under the leadership of Mr. Sam Hosford, and the young men's class was led by Dr. A. D. Millar. Each of these classes had a membership of over sixty, and was an impressive sight.



DR. MILLAR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

In 1918 the C.G.I.T. movement was introduced into Metropolitan by Mr. Tilton who trained the Misses Annie and Daisy Brushett, Muriel Hart, Gene Crumb, Pearl Flack and Eva McKitrick to be leaders. Mrs. A. E. Ottewell became the first Department Superintendent and arranged the first Mother-and-Daughter Banquet. Since then Mrs. Sproule, Miss Winnie McKitrick, Miss D. McBain, Mrs. E. Johnson, Miss M. Robertson, Miss Bea McBain, Miss Mary Gish and Mrs. Mel. Fowler have been Department Superintendents.

In the year 1924-25, two Metropolitan C.G.I.T. groups became famous. The "Metrolites" led by Mrs. V. S. Kaufman, and the "Cheerios" led by Miss Winnie McKitrick won all four cups in the city-wide track meet and winter carnival. Metropolitan girls were always active in other city-wide undertakings, especially the Vesper Services. Two graduates of Metropolitan C.G.I.T., the Misses Winnifred McElroy and Bea McBain became provincial Religious Education workers in Saskatchewan and Manitoba respectively. The most recent addition to Girls' work in our Sunday School is the Girl Explorers, and they have already shown that they will carry on the fine tradition.



"METRO-LITE" CLASS, 1925

Front Row: Muriel Peck, Vera Gillespie, Jean Campbell, Jean Hunter, Margaret Bowie, Mrs. Kaufman (Leader), Ada Crawford (President), Pauline McBain, Susie Inkpen, Mable Walker, Hazel Weldon and Alice Langford.
 Second Row: Hazel Burkholder, Irene Creighton, Dorothy Dinkham, Jean Dunn, Amy Knowles, Florence Crawford, Winnie Suck, Doris Chapman, Phyllis Lister, Mercy Murray, Ruth Prevey, Jessie Hayworth.
 Back Row: Bertha Richards, Dorothy Sproule, Frances Dingle, Enid Rice, Florence Howard, Frances Barr, Helen Brown, Gladys Fry, Margaret Bishop, Myrtle Kent, Dora Fry, Dorothy Morris.
 Large cup for Winter Carnival. Small cup for C.G.I.T. Track Meet.

One of the reasons for the success of the later departments is the fact that through the years the teachers in the earlier departments have made Sunday School so real to the small children that they are eager to continue their study and worship in the Church School.

The work for the older boys and girls is carried on in two departments—Junior-Intermediate and Senior.

During the years there has been outstanding work in each department of the Sunday School. The work for children in their early years has been carried on in three departments—Primary, Nursery and Beginners. There has been added recently the Toddlers' Department which is supervised by the Married Couples' Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer L. Luck served the Sunday School during the 1920's by training and conducting a Junior Choir of some eighty members. This choir, in white surplices, not only led the music in the Sunday School each week, but replaced the senior choir at the morning service for one Sunday each month. Annual concerts and regular visits to the Soldiers' Hospital were other activities undertaken by this group. A smaller Junior Choir is still part of the Sunday School programme.



METROPOLITAN CHURCH JUNIOR CHOIR, 1923-24

Back Row: Helen Whiddon, Winnie Lutz, Esther Prevey, Ruth Prevey, Frances Dingle, Muriel Peck, Jean Campbell, Elfleida Wilson, Evelyn Ball, Blanche Ball, Mercy Murray, Emily Christie, Kathleen Keillor, Kathleen Purdy.

Second from Back Row: Frances Place, Pat Joyce (blind), Irene Creighton, Amy Knowles, Florence Crawford, Ada Crawford, Pauline McBain, Winnie Luck, Dorothy McBain, Winona Armitage, Doris Chapman, Eliza Christie, Genevieve Christie, Eva McKernan.

Middle Row: Marjorie Hall, Ruth McElroy, Alice Johnson, Marjorie Luck, Mildred Crawford, Bessie Campbell, Dorothy Luck, Mrs. Luck (Pianist), Dr. Hollingsworth (Minister), Mr. E. L. Luck (Organist and Conductor, deceased), Beatrice Sellar, Molly Gordon (deceased), Irene Wilkinson, Alice Langford, Ruth Downey.

Second from Front Row: Dorothy Peck, Ruth Hegler, Winnifred McElroy, Irene Campbell, Gertrude Hodgson, Jean Hunter, Irma Burkholder, Lillian Peck, Margaret Crang (Alderman 1934-35), Jon Tonsrad, Gwen Vigus, Helen Sackville, Hazel Hollingsworth.

Front Row: Harold Downey, Clyde Keech (deceased), Shirley Dineen, Lee Murray, Allen McBain, Jack Dingle, Harvey Armitage, Albert Stollery, Walter Ridgewell, Claire McVicar.

In the field of boys' work various programmes have been followed at Metropolitan. Scouts and Cubs, Tuxis, Trail Rangers, Boy Explorers, and now the Tyros, have offered scope for each age group. The Tuxis groups have participated annually in Boys' Parliament. Scores of men, old and young, have given invaluable leadership through the years. Also a young lady won for herself a place in the memory of many boys. Miss Vera Wilson taught a class of boys for many years, and hers was one of the best attended and most interested classes within the whole Sunday School.

No history of Metropolitan would be complete without a tribute to those men who served as general Sunday School superintendents. Of the many who served in this capacity, Mr. A. G. Walker and Mr. W. W. McBain served for the longest periods. Members of Metropolitan during the years that these men were in charge will never forget the New Year's Day Rallies and the banners won for attendance and for Missionary givings—due

largely to the leadership of these men. Others who served for a lesser period but with the same devotion include:

Mr. Wade	Mr. Thomas	Mrs. Bruce	Mr. Weeks
Mr. Richards	Mr. Andrew	Miss Smith	Mr. Hicks
Mr. Heywood	Mr. Fairburn	Mr. Ritchie	Mr. Coutts
Mr. Richardson	Mr. Moore	Mr. Oberholtzer	

When the fire destroyed the church, it seemed that the work of the Sunday School must come to an abrupt end for a time. But the fine spirit of friendliness that prevails among neighboring churches was at once apparent. Facilities were offered by Knox, by Strathcona Baptist, by the South Side Library — and the work of the Sunday School went right on.

Following World War II, a tremendously increased enrolment that reached five hundred in 1951 made it necessary to subdivide the scholars into departments that fill every cranny of the Assembly Hall and the new Church Hall. The various departments now are: Toddlers (up to two and a half), Nursery (two and three), Beginners (four and five), Primary (six to eight), Junior and Intermediate (nine-twelve), and Senior (thirteen and up). Some of these sections meet during church and some immediately following the service.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND MID-WEEK SUPERINTENDENTS

Back Row: Dr. H. T. Coutts, B. Stephanson, S. Whitbread, McK. Ross, L. Gue.
Front Row: Mrs. M. Fowler, Mrs. L. Hunter, Mrs. L. Gue, Mrs. F. Egar.

Now with a fine new hall and the history of service and devotion that has characterized the first sixty years, even greater things can be expected of the Sunday School and mid-week programme in the years to come.

EPWORTH LEAGUE AND YOUNG PEOPLES' UNION

Of all the activities that mark the life of a busy, healthy church, none is so unpredictable and varied as the ebb and flow of the groups whose members are in their late 'teens or early twenties. This is certainly the case in Metropolitan Church, where in the first wooden church there was a thriving group known as the Epworth League, the forerunner of our present day Young Peoples' Union. The Epworth League took its name from Epworth Rectory, the birthplace of John Wesley. In Metropolitan Church early each week there was an evening meeting of the group. The attendance was large, even by today's standards, and many a night the Epworth League almost filled the little wooden church. With few centres of social life outside the church, the group turned to its own members for talent, and vocal and instrumental solos and group singing were a notable feature of the meetings. Temperance meetings were held in the South Side Churches in turn, and the Epworth League from Metropolitan occasionally attended these meetings in a body. From time to time there would be outside speakers, but in the main, programmes were arranged and carried on by members of the group.

In the era from 1907 to the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the Epworth League adopted a new organization. Four sections were established, The Literary Section, the Prayer Meeting Section, the Social Section and the Recreational Section. Each section was responsible in turn for one of the week-night meetings, and once again the groups drew largely on their own talent for their meetings. At this time there would be an average attendance of forty to fifty persons each week. An interesting anecdote that comes to light at this time proves, perhaps, that the younger generation is no worse than the older, in many ways. One of the members of the Epworth League in the early days of the brick church recalls being startled one evening by entering the church and finding the minister seated on the corner of the piano, throwing a song-book at each League member as he or she entered.

During World War I the Epworth League, as all other groups, was badly depleted of young men. The girls, however, took this in hand, and ensured that the boys overseas were not forgotten. Each Monday night a bevy of girls entered the church and held knitting meetings, which is surely as odd a Young Peoples' Meeting activity as one could imagine! In addition, there was another group which concentrated on sending comforts of all sorts to the boys from Metropolitan Church. The girls in the League also produced a typewritten "Bulletin" which they faithfully sent to the men overseas.

Members of the League at this time recall skating parties, a hockey team, and a tennis club, to say nothing of attending the summer camp, sponsored by the Sunday School, at Moonlight Bay on Lake Wabamun. In addition to this, a former president of the Epworth League recalls that around 1917 he organized the first dance ever sponsored by a Methodist Young Peoples' group in Edmonton. The experiment was apparently not repeated, for, as the organizer put it, "I was almost 'excommunicated' ". At this time the dramatic talent of the Epworth League found outlet in a play which they produced in the Princess Theatre.

Following World War I the League was in a state of uncertainty for a time, but by the early twenties was back on its feet again, and going strong. One of the outstanding features of the period from 1920-25 was the Epworth League Orchestra, conducted by Mr. Elmer Luck. This orchestra was composed of twelve to fourteen members, who performed for each meeting. Many members recall that the closing hymn at each meeting was "Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me".

Probably the hey-day of the Young Peoples' Union in Metropolitan Church was between 1925 and 1939. In the later 'twenties and early 'thirties the groups were very active, with attendance of 200 per meeting being not uncommon. One of the activities was the organization of a "Seth Parker" group, who patterned their programmes after the Seth Parker radio programme which was very popular in those days. This group numbered among its members an elocutionist of city-wide reputation, and a singer who was a member of the Plunkett "Dumbbells" team that toured Canada following World War I.

Another astonishingly vigorous group was the Drama group, which put on plays every six weeks throughout the winter. These were taken to festivals and other parts of the city as well as being performed for the Young Peoples' Union. About this time was instituted the practice of holding the meetings on Sunday evening after the church service, and reports have it that everyone was fed, and fed well, as the concluding item on each Sunday evening's program.

In a group with such vitality, the holding of a dance was bound to arise sooner or later. A delegation was sent to the Session to ask permission. Session demurred, stating that it was the first time such a request had been made (apparently no one remembered the 1917 incident), and debated until after midnight before granting permission for the Young Peoples' to hold a dance in Acacia Hall. The dance, as would be expected, was an overwhelming success.

An event that will be long remembered by the Young Peoples' Union of Metropolitan Church was the winning in 1939 of the Interdenominational Fastball championship. "It was a hectic summer," seems to be the consensus, but everyone felt that great honor had been brought to Metropolitan Church by the triumph.

Once again, following the war, the Young Peoples' Union found it difficult to develop a pattern and knit together a group with continuity of membership. However, in 1950 a new organizational form was adopted by dividing the group into "Metropolitans" and Older Young People. This is the form that the Young Peoples' Association operates under today, and it is proving very successful. An annual "Fair" has become a big event in the fall. Groups meet twice, once on Sunday evening after church, and on one week night. The week-night meeting is the business and study meeting, the Sunday evening one more a fellowship and fireside hour.

Throughout the years from 1892 to 1952, there has always been a Young Peoples' group in Metropolitan Church, and the contributions they have made to the happiness and inspiration of the members would be difficult to assess.

THE "TWO-BY-TWO" YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES' CLUB

In 1946 there emerged in Metropolitan Church a new organization, designed to fit the needs of young married couples. One of the basic reasons for the formation of the club was to help the young people of the church who had been in the armed forces to re-orient themselves in the Church, and renew friendships or make new ones in their own age group. The theme of the club has been "Friendship and Fellowship". The meetings have been widely varied. There have been many outstanding speakers, talking on subjects ranging from "How to Buy Meat" to "The Beliefs of the Church of England". Three or four times a year, social evenings are held, at which some special talent from within the Club entertains the members.



YOUNG PEOPLES' AND YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES' CLUB EXECUTIVES

Front Row: L. Scott, L. Simmons, E. Moss, J. Harper, A. McMicking.

Second Row: Mrs. R. Rosser, Mrs. H. Rogers, E. Fowler, Mrs. R. Adair.

Third Row: R. Rosser, L. Mick, R. Adair, B. Henderson

Back Row: R. Soderberg, H. Rogers, R. Stewart.

The club members have assumed responsibility for other areas of church life as well. The Sunday School has drawn heavily on Club members to augment its staff. The W.M.S. and Junior W.A. have members who came first to Two-by-Two. The club has assisted with overseas relief bundles and with the purchase of a movie projector for the church. The "Toddlers" department for infants up to two and one-half years of age was established in order to allow parents of very young children to attend church together while competent young couples took care of their babies. For several years, Two-by-Two has assumed responsibility for the evening church service on Conference Sunday in May. One of the outstanding services the Two-by-Two Club has rendered the Church is sponsoring and organizing the "Marriage Counselling Clinics," held once each year. In these clinics, lectures are given and books are loaned on the subject of marriage. The 1951 Clinic was the most successful thus far, having an average attendance of two hundred and fifty people.

Although the membership of the Two-by-Two Club is not large, its members continue to serve the church in many ways, and at the same time enjoy the friendship and fellowship which are the basis of the Club's life.

METROPOLITAN MEN'S CLUB



EXECUTIVE OF MEN'S CLUB

Wm. Ledingham, W. A. Lang, W. T. M. Fowler, R. M. Putnam, H. Hall.

The Men's Club at Metropolitan was organized in the fall of 1933 with Mr. A. E. Rosborough as the first chairman. The chair was held during successive years by: Mr. R. B. Brooks, Dr. N. Allen, Mr. D. V. Hicks, Mr. M. M. Downey, Mr. R. L. Gilmour, and Mr. Fred Richards who was the last president of the club in the old church prior to the fire.

According to some of the news clippings in Mr. Downey's "Church Scrap Book" the Club was the first in the city to hold a Men's Tea. This was on a cold blustery November 11th, 1939, when over one thousand turned out. They realized \$350 for the church mortgage. Mr. Geo. Campbell was in charge of this Armistice Tea.

The men frequently interchanged visits with the McDougall Men's Club, the visitors supplying the entertainment of skits, songs, stunts and what-have-you! The wives got into the picture once a year on "Ladies Night".

The Club sponsored on different occasions throughout the years the Edmonton Male Chorus, the Welsh Choir, and the Edmonton School Boys' Band, and held musical evenings with our own church supplying the talent. The average attendance at Men's Club meetings was over forty-five.

During Mr. Downey's term of office the Club not only held their first tea but also donated a cup to be used for sports in the church. The trustees are: Mr. R. C. Sheppard, Mr. T. Graham, and Mr. Downey.

In the fall of 1949 Mr. A. G. Walker at a Session meeting broached the idea of re-organizing the Men's Club. Mr. A. L. Williams and committee held three programmes in the spring of 1950. These proved so successful that the Club was reorganized in the fall with Mr. Gordon Eligh as president. Mr. Bill Ledingham, 1951 president, headed an active group which bought a \$650.00 sound projector to be used by any Church group. Mr. Mel. Fowler and his 1952 executive held the most successful tea with \$499 gross.

The Club looks forward to many successful and useful years of church service.

THE CHOIR



This picture was taken the evening of the Sherrill Lanyon recital. Miss Lanyon, formerly a member of the choir, is in the foreground. Pianist for the occasion was Miss Frances Kitchen.

Metropolitan Church has always been very proud of its choir, and rightly so, for we have had some very fine conductors and organists, and always a very enthusiastic membership.

Throughout the years the choirs have made valuable contributions to the life of the Church: money donations to the church Boards, buying hymn books for the Church, cash donations towards the choir loft seating, and now through their efforts in recent years they have acquired a sum of \$1,200 towards the Organ Memorial Fund. This money was raised by concerts, teas, selling Christmas Cards, etc.

Choir Conductors

In the first Church: Wm. Jackson, V. T. Richards, Thos. Richards, F. H. Richards (father of Aubrey).

In the second Church (basement): F. H. Richards, H. S. Armstrong.

In the second Church (auditorium): F. H. Richards, C. E. K. Cox, Rev. Norman F. Priestley, Hayden Morris, H. G. Turner, Fred Tucker, J. N. Eagleson, E. F. McGarvey, Thos. McIlveen, J. W. Jones, R. R. Cooper, Mrs. J. V. Dodds.

In the present Church: Mr. J. I. Gish, conductor, and Mrs. J. V. Dodds, organist.

In the Church fire in 1942 most of the very fine music library was destroyed, though some of it was salvaged and repaired by choir members. Services and choir practices were held in Garneau School Auditorium until the new Church was built and ready for use in 1943.

In 1929 the Choir sponsored the world famous contralto star "Matzener." The undertaking was a success, and after all expenses were paid the choir netted \$622

In December 1951, the choir was very happy to sponsor Sherrill Lanyon, a former choir member, in recital, who sang arias from the operas La Traviata and Carmen. The gown she wore was loaned to her by Lily Pons. The net proceeds from the recital was \$517.00 which the choir turned over to Sherrill for further voice study.

There are at present about sixty members in the choir, who in addition to their regular contribution to the Sunday services, present cantatas and oratorios at special seasons of the year. An executive arranges various opportunities for fellowship within the choir throughout the year.

DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY SERVICES



The Session of the Church has arranged that the Diamond Jubilee be observed over three Sundays in October—

October 5—World-Wide Communion Sunday.

October 12—Former Members' Sunday

October 19—Dedication Service



Those taking part in the various services are:

Rev R W K. Elliott, B A , B D , Superintendent of Home Missions for
Southern Saskatchewan

Dr R McElroy Thompson

Dr William Hollingsworth

Rev. Hart Cantelon, B D , S T M , Jasper Place United Church.

Dr E. J Thompson, Principal, St Stephen's College, Edmonton

Mr Terence Anderson

Mr. Ronald Dougan.

Mr Barry Brooks.

Dr Andrew Stewart, President, University of Alberta

Mr Clifford Wilkinson, B A., Student Assistant

Rev Reid E Vipond, B D , S T M

Rev John McKnight, Assistant Minister

